

DV

Desert Voice Magazine
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

July 04, 2007



Third Army/USARCENT EOD teams...

...share and compare high tech tools

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On the cover

Spc. Leroy Dicks, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery from Fort Smith, Ark. tries on a bomb suit during an EOD open-house at Camp Patriot, Kuwait, June 23.

photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Correction

In Volume 29, issue 3, page 3; Soldiers honored for strides in safety, there was an error in fact. The regulation regarding the safety award is not AR 35-10 but is AR 385-10.

Celebrating freedom on the Fourth of July

Fireworks, picnics, children playing and splashing in pools... the thoughts of summer celebrations commemorating our nation's Independence Day.

For some, it means another holiday away from our loved ones and friends;

for others, it means the first holiday mourning

the loss of a service member who gave their life for our nation.

But for us, this year means one more day of representing something bigger than our own lives – freedom. We each may express it differently, but we all value it because we see each day how quickly it can be lost, if good men and women are not willing stand up and fight for it.

At a critical moment during the Revolutionary War, when General Washington's army was surrounded and in danger of being destroyed, he issued this order: "Put only Americans on guard tonight." Washington knew, at that moment of crisis, he could rely on those citizen-soldiers—volunteers who had left behind their Families and farms to risk everything for the cause of freedom.

Thanks to their service and sacrifice, America gained independence. And every Fourth



**Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb
Third Army Commanding General**

of July since, Americans have come together to give thanks for our freedom and what our country has become: the freest, most creative and dynamic nation on earth.

This Fourth of July across America, Families will enjoy picnics,

parades, and the uplifting beat of "Stars and Stripes Forever." But our celebrations are tempered by the knowledge that the freedom we hold sacred and dear still eludes many the world over.

So today, as in General Washington's time, we take comfort in the knowledge that Americans like you are on guard tonight -- Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.

Like the Minute Men who dropped their pitchforks and took up rifles to defend their new nation in 1776, each of you stepped forward to defend America against the threats of this new century.

Through your service and sacrifice, you help make every day Independence Day. We are free because your hearts are brave. On this Fourth of July, I thank you for what you do for our country.

Patton's Own!

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Teaching sensitivity

Bringing cultural awareness to Camp Arifjan Soldiers



Talal Malki, cultural awareness training instructor assigned to ASG-KU Directorate of Host Nation Affairs, teaches a class at the zone one MWR center at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

*Story and photos by
Pvt. Christopher Grammer
Desert Voice staff writer*

Traveling from the United States to any Arabic country such as Kuwait can cause a major culture shock. Matters that seem miniscule to the average American may be important to the Arab people they come into contact with. A simple gesture may have a completely different meaning than intended.

Americans often find themselves in embarrassing situations due to their lack of understanding of Arab culture. Cultural awareness training provides servicemembers in the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of operations an education in Islamic culture and prevents embarrassing and dangerous situations.

Talal “Tom” Malki, a cultural awareness training instructor assigned to ASG-KU Directorate of Host Nation Affairs, has been teaching the cultural awareness class in Kuwait for about

three years.

“I used to be afraid to talk in front of so many people,” said Malki. “I eventually got over it and loosened up.”

Malki was born and raised in Syria by his parents of Arabic decent.

“I grew up in Syria thinking it is normal that every street has a few armed guards carrying AK-47s,” Malki said. “I thought it was normal that the President ‘is really forever,’ that was the motto always.”

Sick of the fear and single candidate elections, Malki decided then to move to America at the age of 20.

In 2003 Malki responded to a newspaper ad looking for Arabic speaking citizens and volunteered to work with Special Forces as a linguist. He was interviewed by FBI and counterintelligence agents before heading to Fort Benning, Ga., for training.

Soon after, Malki boarded a plane headed for Iraq. He accompanied Special Forces into Iraq on various operations and even fought alongside

them when necessary.

After finishing his year working with Special Forces, Malki became a cultural awareness instructor and taught classes to servicemembers, said Malki. His style of teaching, sense of humor and charisma keeps his students interested and involved in the class.

“They laugh a bit and they learn a bit,” Malki said.

Malki’s class teaches servicemembers that besides the small differences between Arab and western cultures, they are very much alike. Arabs can be liberal, conservative or in-between just like Americans. They have their own movie stars and pop culture icons such as Haifa


Wehbe, who Malki compares to Pamela Anderson.

On the news all Americans see is the ugly side of Arab culture such as terrorist attacks, IEDs and other such violent protests against the presence of Coalition forces.

Some Arabic countries get all their news from anti-western news network. With each culture seeing only the negative sides of the other it becomes difficult to see the truths, said Malki.

“People come up to me after the class and tell me that I have changed their view of Arabs,” Malki said.

Malki, as well as teaching American forces, also teaches other Coalition forces including Georgians, Bosnians and Croatians.

Being informed about another culture is the first step to understanding it. With cultural awareness training servicemembers can be better prepared to interact with Arabs. 

Four-day mental he

...helps Third Army/U.S.ARCENT servicemembers



a psychiatric nurse with the Expeditionary Medical Facility, Kuwait runs the four-day class entitled Outpatient Cognitive Intervention Program, or OCIP. In the class, the patients are shown ways to help overcome everyday issues that have burdened them; issues such as stress management, anger management and anxiety.

“Being out here, a lot of our patients go up into Iraq on convoys and a lot of our patients are in Kuwait,” Kisner said. “No matter how you cut it, it’s stressful to be out here because we don’t have control over a lot of things that go on in our lives. So this class is to help people, give them more coping skills to put in their tool belt.”

Navy Petty Officer 3rd class Holly Jackson, a Sailor assigned to duty in Kuwait from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, said this class is different from the relaxation and stress management course she has attended in the past.

The course instructors here give the patients tools to help them combat issues that arise in their everyday lives. It’s up to the patient themselves to use the tools that are given, the petty officer said.

“They’re going to give you all the right paperwork and tools,” Jackson said. “They are going to give you all the counseling measures that you’re going to need to understand what you’re going to have to do, but you’re going to use the techniques for yourself.”

Pet therapy has been around for many years, Kisner said. The therapy began as a way to get people suffering from traumatic illnesses to open up. Alzheimer’s patients were the first to use pet therapy because scientists believed there was a part of the brain that was linked to happy memories of one’s past. Over time, by interacting

Spc. James Ramey, 513th Transportation Company, pets Birka while Petty Officer 3rd Class Holly Jackson, a sailor assigned to Third Army/ U.S. ARCENT, Kuwait from the USS Nimitz, holds their new furry friend. The two individuals are taking a four-day class designed to address and find ways to control mental health issues.

**Story, photos by
Spc. Wes Landrum
Desert Voice staff writer**

The class was waiting when Birka walked in. Quietly, she stood there looking at the many different faces within the room. After what seemed

like minutes, Birka addressed the crowd with her customary phrase.

“Meow.” You see, Birka is a cat that is used in a unique class designed to help people recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health related illnesses.

Commander Patricia Kisner,

alth program...

recover, regroup and prepare to return to combat.

with animals, some Alzheimer's patients would actually talk to their animal. Kisner said the same thing happens to the patients here in Kuwait.

"People miss their pets," Kisner said. "Pets become part of the family and so it's a very positive experience to be able to pet a dog or pet a cat."

Spc. James Ramey, Joint Logistics Task Force 57, 513th Transportation Company, said the class has allowed him to strengthen relationships with family, friends and fellow servicemembers. He said people who are experiencing problems need to get help before they get in way over their head.

"Things start snowballing for some reason. You feel tired a lot more and you write it off. Then something else happens and you start feeling less motivated to do the best job you can. You write that off as well," Ramey said. "Finally, you've got ten things going on and you're like 'Whoa, something's wrong. I need to be able to stop and do something about this because I'm not the same Soldier I was a month ago.' It's harder to realize it at first because it's a gradual descent and you have to be able to stop and take care of yourself."

The class takes patients out of the stressful atmosphere and gives them time to focus directly on the problem and learn the ways to overcome it. The break gives patients an opportunity to work through their problems without continual exposure to more stressful situations.


Jackson said, without time off and training, the journey to managing mental health issues is a long and difficult road. She said for every three positive steps taken, a patient may regress those steps without the proper training.

The only thing the course does not offer is training for leadership. Jackson and Ramey agree that both commanders and enlisted leaders need to take the course so they can learn the warning signs and get help for their servicemembers.

"There are all kinds of symptoms that will show you that this person is mentally hurting. A lot of people see that as rebellion. They see it as they're trying to be against the system and not with the system so they need to conform to military bearing," Jackson said. "In all actuality, adjusting is harder than they think it is. That's

where stress, anxiety and depression comes into play because nobody is focusing on the real problem."

"Even if you don't think you have a problem, you might," Ramey said. "On the flip side of that, if you're in a command position, even right down to an E-5 squad leader, it helps to be able to recognize the problems among your Soldiers. That way, you can get them the right help. This class will benefit any servicemember and any rank."

For more information on the classes offered at the Mental Health Clinic, you can contact them at 430-1893. 



Petty Officer 2nd class Monalisa Infante, mental health clinic, pets Birka the cat as Petty Officer 3rd Class Holly Jackson, a sailor assigned to Third Army/ U.S.ARCENT, Kuwait from the USS Nimitz, holds her in her arms. Birka is part of a four-day class that informs servicemembers of the signs and symptoms of mental health issues and teaches ways to overcome those issues.

Third Army//USARV

...share, compare and train



A bomb-detecting robot is exhibited during a open-house hosted by Naval and Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal units in the Third Army/U.S. ARCENT Kuwait area of operation, June 23, at Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

*Story, photos by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice staff writer*

Explosive Ordnance Disposal units from all over Kuwait congregated together to host an open-house to raise awareness of the EOD program, June 23, at Camp Patriot, Kuwait.

"Today we're doing an EOD and diver open house, we've got all the EOD and dive units within the Kuwait area of operation," said Lt. Com. Jonathan Ciccone, EOD Operational Support Unit 10, Ordnance Clearance Detachment 6, from Fort Story Va. "They have brought static displays of their equipment and got personnel on and answering any questions."

The purpose of the open-house was two-fold he said.

"This open-house was designed to build awareness of EOD and dive ops here in theater," Ciccone said. "It was also to increase recruiting both in the reserve and active community in those programs."

To showcase the high-tech equipment that EOD uses, EOD technicians from the Air Force, Navy and Army let possible candidates try them out. One such equipment was their assortment of bomb-detecting remote controlled robots. These robots are controlled through a portable computer user interface. Four cameras are installed on a robot, with which the operator could see through a computer screen, away from harm's reach.

Visitors had the chance to test-drive these robots. On hand was Spc. David Kastner, 221st EOD Co. from Camp Blanding, Fla. Kastner works as a maintainer on these robots.

He explained to the visitors how the robots maneuvered and what they were used for.

"The Pack-Bot is small and light to pack up and go," Kastner said.

The biggest hit was the bomb suit. The bomb suit has been featured in movies and has been the staple image of the EOD program. The bomb suit provides an EOD technician protection from small IEDs and bombs. The protection afforded by the suits thick pads also yielded high temperatures inside the suit, especially under the hot Kuwaiti sun.

However that did not stop Spc. Leroy Dicks, B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery from

Fort Smith, Ark.

Dicks, a tank mechanic and a native of Milwaukee, Wi., said he was interested in switching over to EOD.

"The suit wasn't that bad, it was alright, I could see myself doing this, it doesn't bother me," Dicks said. "I'm interested in being in EOD. I'm just an adventurous person."

The most fun are the robots, but people get a big charge out of putting the bomb suit on. The suit gives a sense of feel for an aspect of the job is, it's an interesting feeling, Hauck said.

Working hand-in-hand

Also present at the open-house were Army divers from the 7th Eng. Dive Team from Fort Shafter, Hawaii. They are currently stationed in Camp Patriot and work right next door to their Navy counterparts. Their proximity has benefited

CENT EOD teams...

with high tech tools

both dive teams' working relationship, Ciccone said.

"It's been really good," Ciccone said. "One of the key benefits is the fact that we understand the capabilities of our sister units better."

Also benefiting from a close working relationship are the divers from the host nation of Kuwait, he said.

"We do work with Kuwait nationals, it's been good. We've done some interoperability training with their EOD technicians," Ciccone said. "We've had some info exchanges with their divers. It's a building relationship and a very positive one."

The U.S. EOD do not train their Kuwait counterparts, however they do exchange information.

"A prime example would be during our dives, we'd each run our own separate dive sites and we'd exchange information on how we are doing things and what they see down there," he said.

Training on equipment

While boasting some of the most sophisticated and expensive equipment during the EOD open-house, leaders said all that would be for nothing if their EOD technicians were not proficient with their tools.

The Navy divers recently conducted a training dive off the shores of Camp Patriot. This training mission was intended to further familiarize divers with their equipment, Hauck said.

The team used their sonar equipment to try to identify debris and other objects on the sea floor. Part of the Navy divers' mission is to help the engineer dive team identify water objects that could be hazardous to ships entering the naval docks, Hauck said.

However, EOD provides more than that.

"We do a lot of force protection dives," said Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Cummings, Mobile Unit 8. "I'm the senior



Petty Officer 1st Class Kenneth Cummings, in the water, receives instructions from Petty Officer 1st Class David Hauck during a training dive off the shores of Camp Patriot, Kuwait, June 25.


technician for response calls if there's a VBIED or mortar they'll call us."

Hauck said the open-house was a success because it allowed servicemembers curious about joining the EOD team a insightful look into the world of EOD as well as divers. It also provided a way for the EOD technicians to socialize for camaraderie.

"It was a success; it was a good turn out. We get people asking us all the time so we figured this was a great opportunity,"

Hauck said. "We all go to the same school, we all talk the same language, there's a closeness there that you can't see with the other jobs between branches."

Despite all the hard training that EOD technicians and divers endure, their job makes it worth it, Cummings said.

"I love my job, I love what I do," Cummings said. "There's not many jobs anywhere in the world where you get to jump, you get to dive, you get to blow stuff up, you get to work out  and you get

28 servicemembers naturalized at C

Fellow servicemembers welcome newest citizen

Story and photo

Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Desert Voice staff writer

It was a long and arduous journey for some, but it was worth it. This road culminated in a naturalization ceremony at the Zone 1 Chapel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 29.

Twenty-eight servicemembers from the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of operation became the newest U.S. citizens.

"I feel proud," said Sgt. Noli Batac, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment. "I feel happy now that everything is complete and official."

The ceremony on Friday capped off an eventful week for Batac. Batac was also just recently promoted.

Batac was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. His parents moved to the U.S. in 1993 and he followed almost a decade later. He emigrated to Juneau, Alaska, in May, 2001. A few months later, in November, he enlisted in the Alaska National Guard.

Batac said his decision to join was because of his pride for his newly adopted country. He answered the call of duty after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

"I joined right after 9/11, because I felt like it was my duty to defend this country that I was living in," Batac said. "I also saw it as a way for me to give thanks to my country. This country has provided so much for my family, it was the least I could do."

During the ceremony, 27 other servicemembers from 14 countries took the oath along with Batac. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, non-naturalized servicemembers who opt to become U.S. citizens may do so if they are eligible. Qualified servicemembers are exempt from



Twenty-eight Soldiers, sailors and Marines in the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area States of America during a naturalization ceremony at the Zone 1 chapel on Camp Arifjan.

certain naturalization requirements including residency and physical presence in the U.S.

"It's a great day, I'm really happy for him," said Chaplain (Capt.) Kirk Thorsteinson, 3rd Bn., 297th Inf. "I know he has been trying for six years. Now he can petition for his family to come if he wants to."

Thorsteinson said newly-naturalized Soldiers in his unit deserve praise.

"The ceremony gives a lot of these guys credit," he said. "They were willing to fight for a country that they weren't even citizens of. I wish all Americans felt that way about their country."

Batac's wife is still living in the Philippines with their two children. Batac said his wife and children are

proud of him as a Soldier.

"My wife is proud of what I do," he said. "My children know what I do and they are going to be even more proud of me today. Now, it's my turn to better my family."

He said although his wife and children do not know about his naturalization yet, his parents already know.

"They are part of the reason why I became a Soldier and why I wanted to be a citizen," Batac said. "When I moved here, I saw the good that it did for my family. They moved here because we were poor, my parents wanted to improve our lives. This is my way of saying thanks to my parents and to my country."

Since the beginning of the Global War on Terror, the USCIS

Camp Arifjan

s



of operations become citizens of the United States, Kuwait June 29.

has naturalized more than 32,500 servicemembers. Of the more than 700,000 newly-naturalized citizens each year, roughly 8,000 of them serve in the military. Each military installation has a point of contact for servicemembers wishing to become U.S. citizens. The process was relatively easy, Batac said.

"It wasn't hard at all," he said. "I just signed some paperwork and waited for my application to come through."

Batac's good friend in the unit, Sgt. Erwin Durano, also from Manila, Philippines, decided to become an American citizen for similar reasons.

For Durano, a light wheel vehicle mechanic with 3-297th, a strong sense of nationalism for the U.S. led to him joining the military even



Sgt. Noli Batac, 3/297 Inf., recites the Pledge of Allegiance after becoming U.S. citizen.

though he wasn't a citizen yet.

"I felt like it was my duty, I wanted to support and defend my country," Durano said. "As soon as I set foot in the U.S., I felt like it was already my country. I felt like I was already an American, but now it is official, and I feel even more proud. I wish every American citizen felt this way about defending their country."

While the 28 servicemembers were being sworn in by Joseph Hackbarth, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field director, great pride swelled inside Batac and Durano.

"While I was saying the oath, I was thinking to myself, 'this is for real, I can now proudly say I am an American,'" Durano said.

Batac said he had similar thoughts.

"I thought, 'wow, I'm an American citizen. I'm leaving behind my Filipino citizenship,'" Batac said.

These 28 servicemembers were

only a small number compared to the many other servicemembers who become naturalized each year. Although there are many more non-naturalized servicemembers who serve in the military, Durano said he urges every one of them to become citizens.

"If you're willing to fight for the country, you might as well be a citizen. You deserve it," he said.

For these newly-naturalized servicemembers, returning home as a citizen bares a very significant meaning. Even though his citizenship has changed, his pride and sense of nationalism has not wavered. Rather, it has been fortified, Batac said.

"I can't say enough how proud I am," Batac said. "Even when I wasn't a citizen, when I joined I felt like it was my duty to defend my country, now it feels even more important. I am now part of this country."

Army mom's '1 Care Package' re-ignites boxer's fire



Photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Hammonds, Jr.

Spc. Russell Moses, HHB, 2nd Bn., 142nd FA, hits a punching bag during one of his strenuous workout sessions.

Camp Patriot Soldier receives priceless gifts

Story by
Spc. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice staff writer

It would be hard to describe what emotions ran through Spc. Russell Moses as he opened a care package in May, 2007. It's even harder to imagine how those emotions must have skyrocketed when he pulled out a boxing glove signed by members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic boxing team.

He received a care package from a friend back in the U.S. that he has never met, yet this person's gift has hit Moses in a profound way.

"I was overwhelmed, she really went out of her way to do that," Moses said. "I've never heard of anyone receiving anything from someone they don't know. She's just trying to support the military and that's great."

Gayle Lucas, of Darien, Ct., worked fervently to get this special care package together and she said it was worth it

knowing that she has positively touched a Soldier's life.

Moses, a heavy equipment operator assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery Regiment, has been training and fighting since he was 14.

"I started when I was 14," said the native of Fort Smith, Ark. "I liked the sport, I got in contact with some professionals and trained one-on-one with them. I then fought some amateurs and pros, and just started doing tournaments and never really stopped until I joined the service."

It was then, after joining the military that his time in the ring greatly reduced. He has not been in the ring since being deployed to the Third Army/U.S. Army Central area of operation.

The lack of competition began to wear on him and his physical conditioning wasn't as it should be for a boxer, he said.

"It's hard to stay in shape while

deployed," Moses said. "It is very hard to stay in shape, I actually have my squad leader come in with me to train and he pushes me. I taught him how to keep me on my toes and some of the stuff I needed to hear while I was training to push me, keep my hands up, keep moving and keep punching."

Moses asked his supervisor, Sgt. Thomas Mize, to help him train. He has helped Moses stay motivated. Moses has also been an asset to fellow Soldiers in the unit, Mize said.

"He's very well motivated, he keeps us laughing, they'll talk trash back and forth, but it's all in good fun," Mize said. "Russell wants to go do stuff, he doesn't have to wait and get told what needs to get done, he shows a lot of initiative."

Lucas said it was important for Soldiers to feel like there is someone who cares about what they are doing and that it ultimately benefits the team. In her mission, she sees herself as a combat multiplier.

"I think it is important for the Soldiers to receive gifts so they know they are not forgotten," she said. "These types of gifts show that people care for each Soldier as an individual. Being a Soldier means being part of a team, but teams are made up of individuals, each with their own wants, desires and fears. As a 'combat multiplier,' I am part of several teams."

Getting this special care package was a difficult task on its own, but well worth it, she said.

Lucas started the project by contacting local and national boxing organizations. She originally only wanted one shirt, but as it turned out, each organization she contacted wanted to help her out. One shirt turned into many as well as other boxing memorabilia. One item Moses is particularly fond of is the ring robe worn by Eric Harding in his light-heavyweight title fight against champion Roy Jones Jr. in 2000.

The robe was donated by Norman Bagi, co-owner of Wrecking Crew Boxing from New York City. Bagi had a few words of encouragement for Mo, as he is affectionately called by his friends.

"Tell Mo to keep on

punching," Bagi said in a letter. "Just let him know that we love what he is doing. We pray for him and all the other Soldiers fighting over there."

Mo's favorite item in the care package was the signed boxing glove because of the symbolism it represents to hopeful boxers about competing against the best in the world.

"That's something that every boxer aspires to at some point," he said. "That was my favorite; it was really cool, I was ecstatic."

Moses was just one Soldier out of many who Lucas has adopted and sent care packages to. She calls these special personalized packages, "I Care Packages."

Gathering items for these Soldiers is no easy feat, but it is something that Lucas feels strongly about and does so with passion. All the work that is involved is worth it, she said.

Mo's 'I Care Package' certainly landed a hit with a profound impact. It has reinvigorated his drive to get back in the ring, and he is anxiously waiting to get a chance to box again, he said.

"It inspired me to get back to work and work out harder," Moses said. "People like that make me proud to be a Soldier." **A**

Hometown Hero

**Petty Officer 1st Class
Donald Parker
Navy Customs Battalion**

Parker is an Information Management Specialist with the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Group.

Parker explains how he celebrates the 4th of July in his hometown of Pensacola, Fla.

"We start off by going to my mother's house since it's her birthday. We normally have a party there before fireworks at Pensacola Bay."

Just One Question...

"What does the 4th of July mean to you?"



"In one word, freedom. I don't need to go much more than that."

Sgt. Shawna Witt
Bloomington, Ill.
Human Resources Specialist
33rd Military Police Battalion



"Normally, it means a cook out, but here it has much more meaning, it hits home. We're fighting for freedom."

Petty Officer 3rd Class
Robert Logsdon
Louisville, Ky.
Store Keeper
U.S. Navy Customs



"It makes me wish I was home."

Sgt. Tim McVey
Tampa, Fla.
Chaplain's Assistant
332nd Transportation Battalion



"It means the country's birthday, as well as mine."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Greg
Culbert
Chippewa Falls, Wi.
Aviation Machinist Mate
U.S. Navy Customs Battalion



"It reminds us that freedom is a gift given by many."

Chap. (Capt.) Joe Moffitt
Virginia Beach, Va.
Chaplain
332nd Transportation Battalion



What's happening around Kuwait...

Servicemembers and now citizens



Photos by Sgt. Jacob A. McDonald

Spc. Gary Underwood, 3rd PERSCOM, supporting Third Army/USARCENT operations, holds up a flag after receiving his U.S. citizenship in a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 29, 2007. The former Canadian joined 27 other servicemembers from 14 countries in becoming citizens. (Below) Sgt. Verena Gibbs, JLTF 57, formerly of Germany, hugs Sergeant 1st Class Gerald Sprague, JLTF 57, after receiving her U.S. citizenship in a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 29.

New American citizens

Wilson Aponte
Sean O. Audain
Noli Cruz Batac
Everette Oliver Bryant
Roberto Caceres-Valercia
Erwin Mariano Durano
Verena D. Gibbs
Francisco Grimaldinunez
MD Sohrab Hossain
Muhammad W. Khan
Souliyong Khantharin

Jean Phillippe Martial
Cesar Augusto Mas
Thanh Tan Nguyen
Ines Nunez
Emma G. Olvera
Osvaldo F. Ramirez
Cedric E. T. Ranada
Juan Restrepo-Posada
Edward L. Roberts
Osbaldo Rojasvasquez
Eden Augustin Rosal

Ivan Ruiz
Cris N. Sagun
Machell Mario Swire
Phong Ky Thai
Yordlak Thongsana
Hugo Torres
Gregory Underwood
Andrea U. Uzcategui
Rosalio Velasco

